Investors in uplinking television channels in the news and current affairs category;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have specified 100 per cent FDI to be allowed in uplinking of television channels in the news category; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. As per Guidelines for Uplinking from India notified on 2.12.2005, apart from Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), FII/NRI investment within the overall limit of 26% has been permitted, in the company desirous of uplinking news and current affairs TV channel.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Channels given permission for FDI

148. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) The foreign T.V. channels who have been given permission for the FDI;

(b) what has been the share holding pattern of these T.V. channels at the time of their applications;

(c) whether any foreign T.V. channels have changed their share holding pattern after submission of applications; and

(d) if so, the complete details in this regard alongwith the change of share holding pattern?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) T.V. channels, which are uplinked from abroad, are considered as foreign T.V. channels. Government has recently issued downlinking guidelines on 11.11.2005 to regulate such foreign T.V. channels. As per these guidelines there is no foreign equity restriction for downlinking of such foreign T.V. channels.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.